REMARKS

Claims 1-16, 20-22, 26-36, and 40-44 are pending. Claims 17-19, 23-25, and 37-39 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 20, 26, 29, 33, and 40 have been amended. Claims 43-44 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the August 16, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 19, 23, 26, 29, 33, 37, and 40 for informalities. Applicants have amended claim 1, 5, 9, 13, 2, 29, 33, and 40 to correct the informalities in view of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Heredia et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,065287 (hereinafter Heredia). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in view of the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites:

A sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus for recording sound data onto a recording medium and reproducing said sound data from said recording medium comprising:

an attribute information recording step of recording, onto the recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto the recording medium;

a rule table creation step of creating a rule table that associates the attribute information and digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters each designating, to a digital signal processor of an amplifier apparatus, a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process to be performed;

a DSP program parameter acquisition step of, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from said recording medium, are to be outputted to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to paid sound recording/reproducing apparatus, acquiring, from said recording medium, the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece to be reproduced and acquiring, from said rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information;

a step of using, *when a model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table and a model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with*

each other, said DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process;

a step of using, *when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table differs from the model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, a DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table and a DSP program parameter corresponding to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus* from a DSP program associating table that associates DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatuses, and using said DSP program parameter acquired from said DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process; and

a DSP program parameter setting step of setting the DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition step, in said digital signal processor of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

The Heredia reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the sound recording/reproducing method specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the sound recording/reproducing method specified in independent claim 1, as amended, Heredia does not teach method including "a step of using, *when a model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table and a model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, said DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process*" or "a step of using, *when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table differs from the model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, a DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table and a DSP program parameter corresponding to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus* from a DSP program associating table that associates DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatuses, and using said DSP program parameter acquired from said DSP

program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process."

Heredia is directed to device for controlling audio and video equipment using a computer included in the device. *(Heredia, Col. 1, lines 26-30)* Heredia discloses a system 20 including CPU 26, an audio subsystem 22, a video subsystem 24 and a mass storage 30, all of which are connected by main bus 32. The CPU 26 executes a program to control the audio subsystem 22 and the video subsystem 24. The control functions performed by the CPU 26 include selection and mixing of audio signals. A database of recorded audio is stored in the mass storage device 30 to support these control functions. The software executed by CPU 26 is used to manually or automatically download programs to playback the files. The filename extensions are used to identify the program to be used for playback. *(Heredia, Col. 5, line 45- Col. 6, line 49)* However, Heredia fails to disclose "a step of using, ***when a model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table and a model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, said DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process"*** or "a step of using, ***when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of said rule table differs from the model of said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus, a DSP program parameter acquired from said rule table and a DSP program parameter corresponding to said amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus*** from a DSP program associating table that associates

DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatuses, and using said DSP program parameter acquired from said DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Heredia.

Independent claims 5, 9, 13, 29 and 33 recite limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 9, 13, 29 and 33 distinguish over Heredia for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 2-4 depend from independent claim 1. Claims 6-8 and 43 depend from independent claim 5. Claims 10-12 and 44 depend from independent claim 9. Claims 14-16, 30-32, and 34-36 depend from independent claims 13, 29, and 33, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, 30-32, 34-36 and 43-44 distinguish over Heredia for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 29, and 33.

Independent clam 20 as amended recites:

A sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus for recording sound data onto a recording medium and reproducing said sound data from said recording medium comprising:

a recorded level recording step of, when a succession of sound data are to be recorded onto the recording medium, *detecting a recorded level of the succession of the sound data and recording, onto the recording medium, the detected recorded level in association with the succession of the sound data*; and

a volume control step of, when sound data read out from the recording medium are to be output to an *amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus having a volume control being controlled from outside*, acquiring a recorded level corresponding to a succession of the sound data to be reproduced and *controlling the volume control of the amplifier apparatus currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus on the basis of the acquired recorded level and a reference recorded level.*

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The Heredia reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the sound recording/reproducing method specified in independent claim 20, as amended. Unlike the sound recording/reproducing method specified in independent claim 20, as amended, Heredia fails to teach a method including "a recorded level recording step of, when a succession of sound data are to be recorded onto the recording medium, *detecting a recorded level of the succession of the sound data and recording, onto the recording medium, the detected recorded level in association with the succession of the sound data*" and "a volume control step of, when sound data read out from the recording medium are to be output to an *amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus having a volume control being controlled from outside*, acquiring a recorded level corresponding to a succession of the sound data to be reproduced and *controlling the volume control of the amplifier apparatus currently connected to said sound recording/reproducing apparatus on the basis of the acquired recorded level and a reference recorded level*." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 20, as amended distinguishes over Heredia.

Independent claims 26, and 40 recite limitations similar to those in independent claim 20, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26 and 40 distinguish over Heredia for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, as amended.
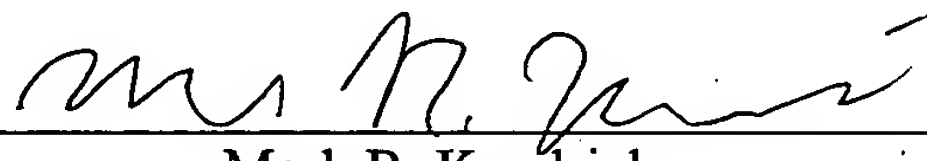
Claims 21-22, 27-28, and 41-42 depend from independent claims 20, 26, and 40, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-22, 27-28, and 41-42 distinguish over Heredia for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 20, 26, and 40, respectively.

Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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